

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 56, 57 and 61-116 are pending in the application subsequent to entry of this Amendment.

In the Official Action the examiner indicates claims 56 and 57 are allowable if rewritten to incorporate the limitations of the base claim from which they depend. Counsel also notes that there are no prior art-based rejections directed to claim 59 (rewritten and expanded as new claim 116), only one of double patenting.

With the examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in mind, a significant number of the originally filed claims have been deleted, claim 56 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 53 from which it previously depended while claim 57 remains as filed (dependent from claim 56) and new claims 61-116 added.

Response is now provided to the issues raised in the outstanding Official Action in order presented.

2. The claims listed in this rejection have been deleted, so no further comment is required.

3. All but claims 56 and 57 listed in this obviousness-type double patenting rejection have been deleted. Attached is a Terminal Disclaimer in respect of U.S. Patent 6,596,071 thus removing the obviousness-type double patenting rejection that would otherwise pertain to claims 56 and 57 and presently also claim 116, the rewritten and expanded version of previous claim 59.

4. Claim 1 has been deleted thus no further comment on this rejection is required.

6. The involved claims have been deleted thus no further comment is required.

10. The involved claims have been deleted thus no further comment is required.

Claim 56 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 53 and claim 57 remains unchanged.

HAYASHI et al.
Appl. No. 09/940,866
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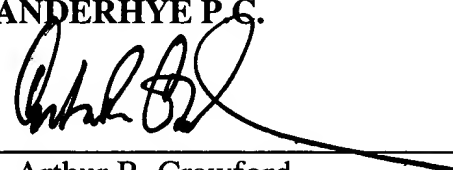
Applicants have also proposed a series of additional claims directed to subject matter which they regard to be patentable and consistent with the examiner's indication of allowable subject matter with regard to claims 56 and 57 and 59 as well.

Reconsideration and favorable action are solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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